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Inside Washington

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More gold found in D.C. streets

WASHINGTON — This city sition at the end of January produced some unusual news. But George Christian, his successor, already has been sworn to exist on one of its streets. in as press secretary and has. Literally, an analysis of dirt been given his commission taken from a super-highway signed by the President.

being built through the heart of the city showed there was a little less than a dollar's worth of gold in each cubic yard of earth on the street's site.

Most people of the nation were convinced that the vast sums of money required by Washington indicated that the government must be paving its streets with the yellow metal, but none ever thought that government funds would be used to cover up forever a gold mine.

Scientists explain that the gold found is not commercially extractable; that it is the vestige of a gold deposit that probably existed on the site some 200,000 years ago.

It is a historical fact that gold was mined commercially in the Washington area up to about 125 years ago when the lodes gave out at about the time fresh strikes were made in California.

Fortunately, neither political party can blame the other for being 200,000 years too late in discovering gold in Washington. The nation has enough political issues to contend with without having to become overnight geologists in order to vote intelligently on that one.

CONFUSION — White House public relations will be a little better in a few weeks, having two press secretaries has anything to do with it.

At the White House reporters are handling this problem of dual authority with their usual aplomb. They're working on the assumption that Moyers is the top man until he leaves, and that Christian is, in effect, still his assistant.

OPEN FEUD — The latest feud in official Washington is beginning to show publicly. The bitterness between CIA Director Richard M. Helms and President Johnson's adviser on national security, Walt W. Rostow, has been an item of gossip in recent months.

But at a recent dinner party attended by both men, one was openly curt with the other, to the shock and amazement of the other guests.

The full reason for the feud is not known, but there is one professional point at issue. The CIA plays down the effectiveness of U. S. bombing of North Vietnam because of its adverse propaganda effect in other countries.

Rostow pushed and now defends the air bombings as having a great impact on the North Vietnamese, and doesn't like the idea of a government agency casting doubt on the effectiveness of the reasons.

Incidentally, Rostow's tactic will be continued, but he